(c) if so, what conditions the private agency would be required to fulfil for starting the channel for educational purposes?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) (a) A Working Group has been constituted in the Department of Education, Ministry of Human Resource Development to recommend measures for rapid expansion of Open Learning/Distance Education, including operationalisation of educational satellite TV Channel. Further action can be taken on receipt of report of the Working Group.

(b) There is no proposal to allot a channel to private agencies for this purpose.

(c) Does not arise.

**Government proposal for electoral reforms**

*266. SHRI S.S. SURJEWALA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to effect changes in the present electoral system of the country;

(b) whether Government propose to hold wide ranging discussions on the issue of electoral reforms; and

(c) whether Government propose to convene an all-party meeting to arrive at a consensus?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) No, Sir.

(b)and (c) The Government has already discussed certain proposals on electoral reforms with leaders of various political parties in a meeting held on 23.7.96 in which consensus emerged in respect of certain proposals.

**Omkar Goswami Committee Report**

*267.SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA:
DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the MINISTER OF FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that almost three years after the Omkar Goswami Committee gave its report on industrial sickness, Government have not done anything substantial to implement its recommendations;

(b) the recommendations on which some action has been taken and the ones on which no action has been taken; and

(c) by when this report/recommendations are likely to be fully implemented?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND THE MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) The recommendations of the Committee on Industrial Sickness and Corporate Restructuring headed by Dr. Omkar Goswami have been under active consideration of the Government. The recommendations of the Committee were also discussed in the meetings of the Consultative Committee of the Ministry of Finance. However, no consensus has yet emerged on these recommendations.

It may be added that the Government have initiated a total review of Sick Industrial Companies (Speical Provisions) Act, 1985 (SICA) and the working of the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) with the intention to bring a new Bill in the Parliament. The recommendations of the Goswami Committee will also be kept in view while preparing the new Bill.

**तपेदिक (टी०बी०) के कारण होने वाली मौतें**

*268. श्री नरेश यादव: क्या स्वास्थ्य और परिवार कल्याण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) देश में प्रति वर्ष तपेदिक से मरने वाले रोगियों की संख्या कितनी है;